

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1431. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide loan forgiveness for attorneys who represent low-income families or individuals involved in the family or domestic relations court system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. DODD):

S. 1432. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the loan forgiveness program for child care providers, including preschool teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 1433. A bill to establish a grant program to enable institutions of higher education to improve schools of education to better prepare teachers to educate all children; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 1434. A bill to provide grants to teacher preparation programs at institutions of higher education to award scholarships for teachers to receive a graduate level degree; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 1435. A bill to establish a grant program for institutions of higher education to collaborate with low-income schools to recruit students to pursue and complete postsecondary degrees in education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 1436. A bill to award grants to eligible entities to enable the entities to reduce the rate of underage alcohol use and binge drinking among students at institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 1437. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for first responders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. KYL):

S. 1438. A bill to provide for immigration reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 1439. A bill to provide for Indian trust asset management reform and resolution of historical accounting claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 37

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 37, a bill to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years.

S. 285

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 285, a bill to reauthorize the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added

as cosponsors of S. 392, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces.

S. 603

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 603, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 828

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 828, a bill to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 962

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit to holders of qualified bonds issued to finance certain energy projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1022

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1022, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for an energy efficient appliance credit.

S. 1104

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1104, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to cover certain legal immigrants under the Medicaid and State children's health insurance programs.

S. 1110

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1110, a bill to amend the Federal Hazardous Substances Act to require engine coolant and antifreeze to contain a bittering agent in order to render the coolant or antifreeze unpalatable.

S. 1265

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1265, a bill to make grants and loans available to States and other organizations to strengthen the economy, public health, and environment of the United States by reducing emissions from diesel engines.

S. 1272

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1272, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, and title II of the Social Security Act to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.

S. 1317

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1317, a bill to provide for the collection and maintenance of cord blood units for the treatment of patients and research, and to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Bone Marrow and Cord Blood Cell Transplantation Program to increase the number of transplants for recipients suitably matched to donors of bone marrow and cord blood.

S. 1321

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1321, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communications.

S. 1360

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1360, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage to designated plan beneficiaries of employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1383, a bill to seek urgent and essential institutional reform at the United Nations.

S. 1400

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1400, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act to improve water and wastewater infrastructure in the United States.

S. 1419

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1419, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1419, supra.

S. 1423

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1423, a bill to provide for a medal of appropriate design to be awarded by the President to the next of kin or other representatives of those individuals killed as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

S. RES. 184

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 184, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding manifestations of anti-Semitism by United Nations member states and urging action against anti-Semitism by United Nations officials, United Nations member states, and the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 198

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 198, a resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 1980 worker's strike in Poland and the birth of the Solidarity Trade Union, the first free and independent trade union established in the Soviet-dominated countries of Europe.

AMENDMENT NO. 825

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 825 proposed to H.R. 6, to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy.

AMENDMENT NO. 1245

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1245 proposed to H.R. 3057, an act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1245 proposed to H.R. 3057, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 1273

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1273 proposed to H.R. 3057, an act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1299

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1299 proposed to H.R. 3057, an act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 1429. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to assist homeless students in obtaining postsecondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I join Senator DEWINE to introduce a bill that would make the dream of a college diploma more accessible to homeless youth and kids in foster care.

We all know the obstacles students in America need to overcome in order to succeed in post-secondary education. Couple these traditional obstacles with extreme poverty, residential instability, insufficient documentation and lack of awareness of supportive educational programs and it is no wonder homeless children and children in foster care are only half as likely to go on to college as their peers.

Youth in foster care are less likely to be enrolled in college preparatory classes and are more than twice as likely as non-foster care youth to drop out of high school altogether. Because The Higher Education Act supports several programs that motivate and support disadvantaged students to help increase their postsecondary educational attainment, it already has many of the tools necessary to intervene in these student lives. My bill would help programs, such as TRIO and GEAR UP, target their resources to better serve homeless and foster care populations. Early intervention is key in retaining these students and preparing them for post-secondary education.

More than 70 percent of teens in foster care desire to go to college, only 27 percent of those who graduate from high school realize that dream. Although children and youth who experience the instability of homelessness or foster care represent the full range of academic talents and abilities, their situations create serious barriers to school enrollment, attendance, and success.

Homeless and foster care youth do not have the traditional family network to encourage or assist them in planning for a college education. These youth need help to select a college, apply for admission and obtaining financial aid. In addition, their student aid must be used for so much more than just tuition and books. They face the daunting challenges of housing,

transportation and other basic needs. By assisting these youth to become independent students we will increase their access to student aid for financial aid purposes; improve their changes for a smooth transition into, and completion of, higher learning.

Our nation's economic well-being depends on our ability to provide greater access to higher education for students, regardless of their family background. By passing this bill we guarantee more students than ever will be given the tools they need to attend college and succeed. Through college we provide these vulnerable students with the best hope for escaping the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

I look forward to working with HELP Committee Chairman ENZI to incorporate these provisions into the Higher Education Act reauthorization bill. And again, I thank Senator DEWINE for his commitment to these often overlooked children.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1429

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving Access to Education for Students Who Are Homeless or in Foster Care Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) According to a study of foster care children in the State of Washington, a child who enters foster care is likely to have poorer academic outcomes than a child not in foster care, even after controlling for a variety of factors such as poverty.

(2) Youth in foster care—

(A) are less likely to be enrolled in college preparatory classes than non-foster care youth; and

(B) are more than twice as likely as non-foster care youth (37 percent as compared to 16 percent) to have dropped out of secondary school.

(3) 50 percent of foster youth in the United States graduate from secondary school, compared with 85 percent of youth overall.

(4) 70 percent of teens in foster care desire to go to college.

(5) A report from Casey Family Programs indicated that, nationwide, less than 27 percent of foster youth who graduated from secondary school went on to college, as compared to 52 percent of the general population. Moreover, the college dropout rate among foster youth is far higher than the rate among other students.

(6) A May 2002 report issued by the University of California at Berkeley found that, of more than 3,200 foster care youth who attended a community college from 1992 through 2000—

(A) 39 percent earned between 1 and 17 credits;

(B) 40 percent of the foster care youth earned no credits; and

(C) many of the foster care youth did not attempt to take classes for credit, but rather were enrolled in remedial or other non-credit classes.

(7) Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness often have left home for their own survival.